



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/921,358      | 08/02/2001  | Tomoharu Kurita      | 212865              | 6028             |

23460 7590 08/16/2004

LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD  
TWO PRUDENTIAL PLAZA, SUITE 4900  
180 NORTH STETSON AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60601-6780

EXAMINER

KRUEER, KEVIN R

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

1773

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The request for deferral/suspension of action under 37 CFR 1.103 has been approved.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

|                                 |             |   |                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| APPLICATION NO./<br>CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR /<br>PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

|          |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

|          |
|----------|
| ART UNIT |
|----------|

|       |
|-------|
| PAPER |
|-------|

08132004

DATE MAILED:

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner for Patents**

This letter is in response to a phone call placed by Applicant's counsel in which it was called to the Office's attention that a 3-month suspension of action was requested concurrently with the filing of the Request for Continued Examination on June 1, 2004. The Office erroneously mailed a non-final Office action before the 3month period had expired. Applicant can disregard the period for response noted in said non-Final Office Action. Furthermore, Applicant's 3-month suspension of action begins from the date noted in the attached letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin R Kruer whose telephone number is 571-272-1510. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones, can be reached at 571-272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin R. Kruer  
Patent Examiner-Art Unit 1773

  
**D. S. NAKARANI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**